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U.S. Senate circumvents Tuberville holds and confirms new Air Force head, first female on Joint Chiefs

By MARY CLARE JALONICK,
TARA COPP and LOLITA
BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Senate, circumventing holds by Republican Sen. Tommy Tuberville, on Thursday confirmed the nominations of two senior military leaders, including the first female member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Adm. Lisa Franchetti was confirmed by a vote of 95-1 to lead the Navy, making her the first woman to serve as a Pentagon service chief and hold a seat on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Gen. David Allvin was also confirmed by a vote of 95-1 to be chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force. The Senate was expected to vote later Thursday to confirm Lt. Gen. Christopher Mahoney to serve as assistant commandant for the U.S. Marine Corps.



This image from Senate Television video shows Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., speaking on the Senate floor Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023.

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U.S. Senate circumvents Tuberville holds and confirms new Air Force head, first female on Joint Chiefs

Continued from Front

Franchetti's historic confirmation as the chief of naval operations comes as Tuberville has drawn bipartisan criticism for holding up almost 400 military nominations in an effort to protest Pentagon abortion policy. In a remarkable display, several Republican senators angrily held the floor for more than four hours on Wednesday evening and called up 61 of the nominations for votes, praising each nominee for their military service. Tuberville, of Alabama, showed no signs of letting up, standing and objecting to each one.

Allvin is the vice chief of staff of the Air Force but has been serving as acting chief, since the previous top Air Force officer, Gen. CQ Brown, became chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on Oct. 1. Allvin is a career air mobility pilot with more than 4,600 flight hours and key deployments in Afghanistan and Europe.

If confirmed, Mahoney could immediately step in as acting commandant, temporarily taking over after Gen. Eric Smith, the commandant, was hospitalized on Sunday after suffering a medical emergency at his official residence in Washington.

Smith, who is listed in stable condition and is recovering, was confirmed to the top job last month, but he



Navy Adm. Lisa Franchetti speaks during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on her nomination for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Chief of Naval Operations, Sept. 14, 2023, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

had been holding down two high-level posts for several months because of Tuberville's holds.

When Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., announced the vote this week on Mahoney's nomination to be assistant commandant, he said Smith's sudden medical emergency is "precisely the kind of avoidable emergency that Sen. Tuberville has provoked through his reckless holds."

Tuberville has challenged Schumer to put each nomination on the floor — a process that could take weeks or months as each nomination requires multiple days and multiple votes to get around the objection. Schumer has so far resisted, hoping to force Tuberville's hand, but he

has relented in the case of some top military officers.

Franchetti, the vice chief of operations for the Navy, has broad command and executive experience. A surface warfare officer, she has commanded at all levels, heading U.S. 6th Fleet and U.S. Naval Forces Korea. She was the second woman to be promoted to four-star admiral, and she did multiple deployments, including as commander of a naval destroyer and two stints as aircraft carrier strike group commander.

"She has worked her way up the ranks of the United States Navy. She has commanded at sea," said Senate Armed Services Committee chairman Sen. Jack Reed ahead of the vote. "She has accepted and excelled at every challenge

presented to her. She is superbly prepared to be the chief of naval operations." Reed said that Franchetti's nomination also marks an important point in history. "I'm glad we've reached this moment," he said. "At every step of her career, Adm. Franchetti has been a trailblazer."

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin recommended that President Joe Biden select Adm. Samuel Paparo, the current commander of the Navy's Pacific Fleet, several U.S. officials said earlier this year. But instead, Biden nominated Paparo to lead U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

Several women have served as military service secretaries as political appointees, but never as their top uniformed officer. Adm. Linda L. Fagan is the commandant of the Coast Guard, but she is not a member of the Joint Staff. Tuberville said Wednesday there is "zero chance" he will drop the holds, which he first announced in February. Despite several high-level vacancies and the growing backlog of nominations, he has said he will continue to hold the nominees up unless the Pentagon ends — or puts to a vote in Congress — its new policy of paying for travel when a servicemember has to go out of state to get an abortion or other reproductive care. Biden's Dem-

ocratic administration instituted the policy after the Supreme Court overturned the nationwide right to an abortion, and some states have limited or banned the procedure.

"I cannot simply sit idly by while the Biden administration injects politics in our military from the White House and spends taxpayers' dollars on abortion," Tuberville said.

Confronting Tuberville publicly for the first time since he announced the holds, the Republican senators — Alaska Sen. Dan Sullivan, Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, Indiana Sen. Todd Young and others — read lengthy biographies, praised nominees and lashed out at Tuberville as they called for vote after vote. They said they agree with the Alabama senator in opposing the abortion policy but questioned — as Democrats have for months — why he would hold up the highest ranks of the U.S. military.

Sullivan said Tuberville is "100% wrong" that his holds are not affecting military readiness. Ernst said the nominees are being used as "political pawns." Utah Sen. Mitt Romney advised Tuberville to try to negotiate an end to the standoff. All of them warned that good people would leave military service if the blockade continues. □



The U.S. Treasury Department building is shown at dusk in Washington on June 6, 2019.

Associated Press

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States on Thursday

imposed a new round of sanctions on 130 firms and people from Turkey, China

The U.S. sanctions more foreign firms in a bid to choke off Russia's supplies for its war in Ukraine

and the United Arab Emirates in an effort to choke off Russia's access to tools and equipment that support its invasion of Ukraine. The sanctions imposed by the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control target third-party firms and people alleged to assist Moscow in procuring equipment needed on the battlefield, including suppliers and shippers. In addition, the State Department imposed diplomatic

sanctions targeting Russian energy production and its metals and mining sector. Thursday's sanctions targets include Turkish national Berk Turken and his firms, which are alleged to have ties to Russian intelligence. The Treasury Department said Turken's network arranged payments and shipping details designed to bypass sanctions and move goods from Turkey to Russia. A series of United Arab Emirates firms alleged to

have shipped aviation equipment, machines for data reception and more also were sanctioned. And UAE-based ARX Financial Engineering Ltd. was sanctioned for allegedly being involved in finding ways for Russian rubles to be sent from sanctioned Russian bank VTB Bank and converted to U.S. dollars. Turken and a representative from ARX were not available for comment on Thursday. □

The Biden administration pushes for more U.S.-Latin America trade, seeking to lessen Chinese influence

By **FATIMA HUSSEIN** and **JOSH BOAK**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden is trying to increase trade with Latin America, meeting on Thursday with the heads of the Dominican Republic and Chile as part of a broader effort to disrupt China's dominance in global manufacturing.

"There's really is no reason why this hemisphere shouldn't be the most prosperous Democratic hemisphere in the world," Biden told Chilean President Gabriel Boric Font. "We have all the makings of that."

The U.S. president on Friday will welcome national leaders from across the Western Hemisphere for the first Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity Leaders' Summit. The event was announced last year at the Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles as Biden has made it a priority to expand U.S. alliances to counter competitors such as China and rivals such as Russia.

"The Dominican people are your friends. The Dominican people are your al-



President Joe Biden meets with Dominican Republic's President Luis Abinader in the Oval Office of the White House, Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

lies," Dominican President Luis Abinader told Biden in the Oval Office.

Chilean President Boric said he would discuss migration and development issues with Biden, saying that they both shared the goals of "respecting human rights and fighting for democracy."

Treasury Secretary Janet

Yellen outlined the Biden administration's goals in a Thursday speech at the Inter-American Development Bank.

The U.S. wants to diversify supply chains with "trusted partners and allies," a strategy that she said had "tremendous potential benefits for fueling growth in Latin America and the Carib-

bean."

Yellen, who regularly talks about her "friendshoring" strategy for increasing supply chain resilience by working primarily with friendly nations as opposed to geopolitical rivals like China, laid out her vision of new U.S. investment in South America at the development bank on Thurs-

day.

Latin American businesses "will increasingly have the chance to lead in new areas of clean energy, for example, helping create vertical supply chains by using locally extracted lithium in local battery production," Yellen said.

"Medical equipment and pharmaceutical companies can grow and innovate to meet increased demand," Yellen said, and skilled workers can produce automotive chips necessary for electric vehicles.

The Inter-American Development Bank, which is the biggest multilateral lender to Latin America, would support new projects through grants, lending and new programs. The U.S. is the bank's largest shareholder, with 30% of voting rights.

Increasingly, policymakers in the U.S. have expressed concern about China's influence at the bank.

While the Asian superpower holds less than 0.1% voting rights, it holds large economic stakes in some of the 48 member countries of the bank. □

Cornell cancels classes after student is charged with threatening Jewish people on campus

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — Cornell University has canceled classes on Friday after a

student was charged with making online antisemitic threats against Jewish people on campus.

Cornell junior Patrick Dai, 21, has been charged with posting threats to kill or injure another using interstate communications after authorities say he made threatening comments on an online Greek Life forum over the weekend. He was held without bail following his first appearance in federal court. The statements prompted officials to send police to guard a Jewish center and kosher dining hall as unnerved students feared for their safety. Cornell Hillel, a Jewish campus organization, advised students and staff to avoid the dining hall "in an abundance of caution."

A spokeswoman at the Ivy League school said the decision to close on Friday was made "in recognition of the extraordinary stress of the past few weeks." Faculty and nonessential staff will also be excused from work.

There has been a swell of both antisemitic and anti-Muslim rhetoric online amid the Israel-Hamas war. Meeting with Jewish students from Baltimore-area colleges on Thursday, U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said he was "appalled and horrified" by incidents of antisemitism on campuses across the

country. Cardona said his department is preparing a letter to guide university leaders as they work to protect students from discrimination.

"I want to tell you, we've got your back," Cardona told roughly two dozen students who gathered at Towson University. "The Department of Education is going to do everything we can to make sure you're safe on campus."

Authorities tracked the threats to Dai through an IP address. He has admitted to law enforcement that he posted the messages, according to a criminal complaint. □



A woman walks by a Cornell University sign on the Ivy League school's campus in Ithaca, New York, on Jan. 14, 2022.

Associated Press

U.S. Marshals releases its first report on shootings by officers

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Marshals have for the first time released data on shots fired by their officers or other police working with them.

The report released this week examined a total of 147 shootings over the course of three years, from 2019 to 2021. Almost all of those happened as the federal agency tasked with fugitive searches arrested people on warrants, including for crimes like assault and homicide, the report said. The total includes fatal shootings, injuries and those where no one was struck.

It's a step toward transparency for federal law enforcement, and comes at a time when data about police shootings remains scarce, years into a national reckoning over police brutality and racial injustice. Experts say detailed data is essential to tackling the issue, but comprehensive information for the U.S. is still lacking.

U.S. Marshals Service Direc-



Yellow crime tape blocks off an area near a mall parking area where two Baltimore city police officers were shot and a suspect was killed as a U.S. Marshals' task force served a warrant, July 13, 2021, in Baltimore, Md.

tor Ronald Davis ordered the review last year, saying it reflects the seriousness of shots fired by officers. The report does not include information on whether the shootings were deemed legally justified nor data on more recent shootings, though it does say that

those outlined in the report were independently investigated.

The aim was to study policies, training, tactics and equipment to figure out ways to make shootings less likely or destructive in the future, the report released Tuesday states.

One deputy U.S. Marshal was killed during the three-year period: Chase White, who was fatally shot serving a fugitive arrest warrant against a man accused of stalking a female police sergeant in Tucson, Arizona. Officers were injured by gunfire 13 times and suf-

Associated Press

fered other injuries six times during the period of the report, which was composed on a fiscal year schedule. The shootings were spread across the country, with the largest number happening in regions in the West and in Texas.

It found that more than half of the officers who fired shots were from other police agencies working with the deputies on task forces. Of the 266 officers involved with shootings, just under 40% were deputies. That finding has the Marshals "committed to enhancing USMS federal oversight" of task-force officers. The Justice Department began allowing local officers working with federal law enforcement to begin wearing body cameras in 2020, reversing a policy that had strained its relationship with some law enforcement agencies quicker to adopt their usage.

There are nearly 4,000 deputy U.S. Marshals, and they work with more than 3,500 task force officers from departments around the U.S., the report states. □

Federal agents search home of fundraiser for New York City Mayor Eric Adams

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ and MICHAEL BALSAMO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal agents on Thursday raided the home of a top fundraiser and longtime confidante to New York City Mayor Eric Adams, who abruptly ditched a planned White House meeting and flew home from Washington.

Agents searched the home of Brianna Suggs in Brooklyn, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press. The official, who was not authorized to publicly disclose details of the investigation, spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity. The official declined to say whether Suggs was the target of an investigation.

Vito Pitta, an attorney for the Adams campaign, said the mayor was not

contacted as part of the inquiry. "The campaign has always held itself to the highest standards," he added. "The campaign will of course comply with any inquiries, as appropriate." Suggs, who did not immedi-

ately respond to a request for comment, is a campaign consultant to Adams who raised money for his election effort and also lobbied his administration on behalf of corporate clients. News of the raid came

shortly after Adams announced that he was abruptly returning to New York City from a planned trip to Washington D.C. to "deal with a matter."

A sit-down with senior White House staff and the mayors of Denver and Chicago proceeded without Adams in attendance. A spokesperson for City Hall declined to comment on the cancellations, deferring comment on the raid to the Adams campaign.

Suggs has worked closely with Adams since at least 2017, when he was Brooklyn Borough President.

She later joined his mayoral campaign, helping to raise more than \$18.4 million for his primary and general elections, according to her LinkedIn profile.

Suggs has continued to

solicit donations for Adams' reelection bid, while simultaneously starting her own lobbying firm last year, records show. Her clients have included real estate interests with business before the city, including a Chinatown mall that was seeking a lease renewal. Her dual efforts as fundraiser and lobbying have drawn scrutiny from good government groups, though she has denied wrongdoing.

A neighbor, Christopher Burwell, said he saw close to a dozen people in FBI windbreakers leaving Suggs' apartment shortly after 9 a.m. The agents were carrying at least one box, he said.

A spokesperson for the federal prosecutor's office in Manhattan, Nicholas Biase, declined to comment. □



Gated front steps lead up to the 929 unit residency at Crown Highs in Brooklyn, New York Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023.

Associated Press

Opposition mounts in Arab countries that normalized relations with Israel

By SAM METZ

Associated Press

RABAT, Morocco (AP) —

Arab nations that have normalized or are considering improving relations with Israel are coming under growing public pressure to cut those ties because of Israel's war with Hamas.

Tens of thousands of people have taken to the streets of Rabat and other Moroccan cities in support of the Palestinians. In Bahrain a country that almost never allows protest police stood by as hundreds of people marched last month, waving flags and gathering in front of the Israeli Embassy in Manama.

The demonstrations, which mirror protests across the Middle East, present an uncomfortable dilemma for governments that have enjoyed the benefits of closer military and economic ties with Israel in recent years. In Egypt, which has had ties with Israel for decades, protesters rallied in cities and at universities, at times chanting "Death to Israel." A parliamentary committee in Tunisia last week advanced a draft law that would criminalize normalization with Israel.



Thousands of Moroccans take part in a protest in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza and against normalisation with Israel, in Casablanca, Morocco, Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023.

Associated Press

In Morocco and Bahrain, the public anger has an additional dimension; activists are demanding the reversal of agreements that formalize ties with Israel, underscoring discord between the governments and public opinion.

The U.S.-brokered Abraham Accords, aimed at winning broader recognition of Israel in the Arab world, paved the way for trade deals and

military cooperation with Bahrain, Morocco, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates starting in 2020. Their autocratic rulers as well as American and Israeli officials continue to frame the deals as a step toward a "new Middle East" in which closer ties could foster peace and prosperity.

The accords marked a major diplomatic victory for Morocco because they

led the U.S. and eventually Israel to recognize its autonomy over the disputed Western Sahara. Morocco's Foreign Ministry did not respond to questions about the agreement or protests. The accords also led Washington to remove Sudan from its list of state sponsors of terrorism, presenting a lifeline for the ruling military junta fighting a pro-democracy movement and

spiraling inflation.

Large protests against the Israel-Hamas war have not erupted in Sudan or the United Arab Emirates.

A highly sought-after agreement between Israel and Saudi Arabia has become less likely due to the war and regionwide protests, Steven Cook, a senior fellow for Middle East and Africa Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, told The Associated Press in October.

"I think this dynamic of normalization will likely slow down or come to a halt, at least for a period of time," Cook said.

Opponents of normalization say the protests make clear the governmental wins that resulted from the accords did little to move public opinion.

"Hamas isn't terrorists. It's resistance to colonization. Imagine someone enters your house. How would you behave? Smile or make them leave by force?" said Abouchitae Moussaif, the national secretary of Morocco's Al Adl Wal Ihsane, a banned but tolerated Islamist association that has long supported the Palestinian cause. □

Putin signs a bill revoking Russia's ratification of a global nuclear test ban treaty

MOSCOW (AP) — President Vladimir Putin on Thursday signed a bill revoking Russia's ratification of a global nuclear test ban, a move that Moscow said was needed to establish parity with the United States.

Putin has said that rescinding the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, also known as the CTBT, would "mirror" the stand taken by the U.S., which has signed but not ratified the nuclear test ban.

Both houses of the Russian parliament voted last month to revoke Moscow's ratification of the bill.

The CTBT, adopted in 1996,

bans all nuclear explosions anywhere in the world, but

the treaty was never fully implemented. In addition



Russian President Vladimir Putin gestures as he speaks to Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo during their talks in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023.

Associated Press

to the U.S., it has yet to be ratified by China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, Israel, Iran and Egypt.

There are widespread concerns that Russia may resume nuclear tests to try to discourage the West from continuing to offer military support to Ukraine. Many Russian hawks have spoken in favor of a resumption of the tests.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that Russia's move "represents a significant step in the wrong direction, taking us further from, not closer to, entry into force. Russia's action will only serve to set back confidence in the in-

ternational arms control regime."

"Russian officials say Russia's planned move to withdraw its ratification does not mean that it will resume testing, and we urge Moscow to hold to those statements," Blinken said.

Putin has noted that some experts argue for the necessity of conducting nuclear tests, but said he had not formed an opinion on the issue.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said last month that Moscow would continue to respect the ban and will only resume nuclear tests if Washington does first. □

Charity says migrant testimonies point to a recurring practice of illegal deportations from Greece

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — A leading international medical charity alleged Thursday that testimony from dozens of migrants over the past two years points to a “recurring practice” of secret, illegal and often brutal deportations back to Turkey from two eastern Greek islands.

Doctors Without Borders said in a new report that the accounts it collected said the forced returns were carried out by uniformed officers or unknown masked individuals. It did not refer to the nationality of the officers mentioned in the accounts.

The report follows charges by charities, activists and Turkish authorities, who alleged similar actions in the Aegean Sea and at Greece’s northeastern land border with Turkey.

Athens has strongly denied such so-called “push-backs,” and argues that its coast guard has saved hundreds of thousands of migrants from the Middle East and Africa who attempted to reach Greece by crossing in small boats from Turkey.

Greece says it needs to protect its borders, which are



From Left to right Interim General Director of the Greek Section of MSF Achilleas Tzemos, International President of MSF Christos Christou, Greek journalist Panos Charitos, Head of Mission for MSF in Athens, Samos and Bulgaria Sonia Balleron, and, Head of Mission for MSF in Lesbos and the Balkans Duccio Staderini take part in a news conference organised by the Doctors Without Borders, in Athens, on Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023.

also those of the European Union, from mass illegal immigration. In March 2020, Turkey opened its borders into the EU and actively encouraged migrants to cross into Greece.

Doctors Without Borders, which is also known by its French abbreviation MSF, said Thursday that in one case, migrants reported to

its staff that two people including a pregnant woman allegedly died off the island of Samos when their boat was towed at high speed toward Turkish waters.

“As a medical and humanitarian organization, we could not stay silent in the face of the exceptional scale and severity of the violence reported to our

teams” on Samos and the island of Lesbos, the humanitarian organization said. It added that “non-assistance (to migrants), violence and pushbacks have become part and parcel of a system of border management” on the two islands.

Lesbos and Samos, both key landing points for mi-

Associated Press

grants arriving from Turkey, are the only Greek islands where Doctors Without Borders is active.

As a result, according to the group’s report, migrants are turning to alternative, longer voyages that pose a greater risk of hardship or death. There has been an increase in recent years of yachts crammed with migrants leaving Turkey and rounding southern Greece to head for Italy.

Doctors Without Borders said its report drew from accounts by migrants between Aug. 2021 and July 2023. It didn’t cite any first-hand observation of push-backs by its own teams, but said they had met indications of violence against newly arrived migrants.

It added that the discrepancy between the more than 10,000 arrivals reported to MSF over the two-year period and the nearly 8,000 people actually found “indicate(s) that people unaccounted for by MSF ... may have been forcibly returned to Turkey.” The group said it held anonymous interviews with 56 people who claimed to have suffered illegal deportations. □

Rights groups report widespread war crimes across Africa’s Sahel region with communities under siege

By **CHINEDU ASADU**

Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Security forces and armed

groups are committing war crimes against civilians in Africa’s Sahel region, where extremists and rebels are

increasingly fighting to exert dominance and control resources in communities, according to new reports from two rights groups.

Civilians are increasingly being killed, abducted or abused, including in Burkina Faso, where jihadi groups have fought for many years, and Mali, where militants and ethnic rebels are expanding their reach, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International said.

The Amnesty report was released on Thursday, while the HRW one came out on Tuesday. Spread across the vast arid expanse south of the Sahara Desert, the Sahel region has been a hot

spot for violent extremism, with armed groups often taking advantage of little or no government and security presence to target helpless communities.

But the conflict has worsened in recent months and analysts blame the trend on the absence of institutional reforms, failed peace efforts as well as rampant coups by militaries in places like Burkina Faso and Mali. The violence also includes alleged war crimes, which rights groups say are often covered up.

In Mali, both the armed forces and extremist rebels have killed and abused numerous civilians in the

country’s central and northern regions for allegedly collaborating with either side of the conflict, Human Rights Watch said in its report. Malian security forces were responsible for at least 40 civilian deaths, nearly half of whom were children, the report said.

“The targeted killing of civilians by Islamist armed groups and the Malian army are war crimes that should be thoroughly and impartially investigated,” Ilaria Allegrozzi, senior Sahel researcher at Human Rights Watch, said in the report based on interviews with 40 people, including more than 30 witnesses. □



Saga Saganla, 30, from Diawely, lies on his bed at Somine Dolo hospital in Mopti, Mali, Friday June 24, 2022.

Associated Press

Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a “must see” landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the “T” junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor

Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the “fluke” or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

“According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of



The Red Anchor situated at the entrance of former Lago Colony in San Nicolas

the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain.”

Story 2:

“Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them.”

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba;

Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The “anchor”, which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated “To All Seamen” on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam

Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated “To All Seamen” in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seamen who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. □



Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from an anonymous visitor.

He wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is Paradise!"

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas



SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaux of an authentically recreated

colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barbershop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment.

Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an

urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □

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Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals

(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island

with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the inter-

national treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohib-

ited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that they have to pay before leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light.

Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours! ☐



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Episode LXXV -75 - Dutch pipes, Fish bones & Shells



NOORD — Many things were used to make beats since man's existence, raw materials where scrutinized for all kind usage and unimaginable purposes.

Tribal craftsmen where highly regarded artists and handymen of a village. Some were able to transfer spiritual powers in their work, trough prayers or blessings. Survival and culture go hand in hand and the craftsmen used whatever they could put their hands on. Tribal regalia's, objects, ornaments, war and hunting equipment, all of these had its physical purpose as well as a symbolic and spiritual connecting value. The goal was to

exhibit social distinction or status. It had its incessant demand when it came for the hand and quality of experimented craftsmen to supply these social at-tires. These artistic creations functioned perfectly as a bravery medal to a warrior as token of recognition or worn as magical totem, a "contra" to scare away omens and bad spells. Others had to promote healing and spread cleansing powers. They also served as symbols of political status and valued as a trade item.

Some of the items used in Aruba during the Dutch colonial era were, discarded white ceramic tobacco



pipes. At a time, you could still find pieces of these white ceramic pipes at Wela, Alto Vista and a few other sites. On Aruba you will find all sorts and types of white colored beats. These where made for ex-ample out of fish bones,

while only one category of white marine shell beats can be called or considered a "Quiripas". Quiripas comes in an array of sizes and shapes. Diameters measuring up to 3cm. Strombus shells were in many times the basic mate-

rial used in their fabrication of the so called Quiripa. Having one or more holes and sometimes a semi perforated hole believed yet to be perforated. Many "boton" as called by Aruban's for its similarity to a button. They were collected during an archaeological rescue excavation in Santa Cruz in Aruba. Santa Cruz was a highly organized settlement and important village during Aruba's Ceramic Period. There is even a zone in Santa Cruz called Boton for the many shell buttons that were found there.

To get to know more regarding Aruba's and its origins, its animals, culture etc. we highly recommend you to book your participation. Living our cultural encounter session is mind opening and entertaining curious hearts for decades. Mail us at etnianativa03@gmail.com. Our facilities and activities take place close to your place. □



Article by: Etnia Nativa

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Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the time, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with only one way to generate profit at the time for the subsistence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928,

that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experienced by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island in the mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piternella, as well



as migrant authors José Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because

of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban

culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness within the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamentu, but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/ Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. □

Source: *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas



CROSSWORD

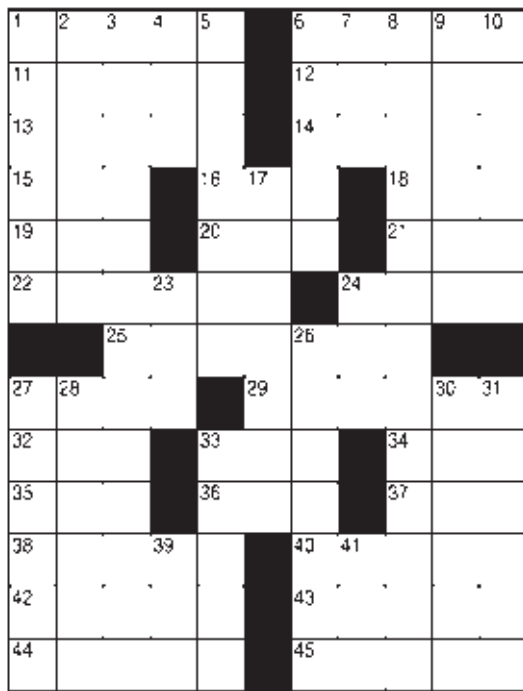
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 Bold way to solve cross-words
 - 6 Longed
 - 11 Sports spot
 - 12 Squalid
 - 13 Pub orders
 - 14 Bold poker bet
 - 15 "— favor"
 - 16 Pewter component
 - 18 Pilot's guess: Abbr.
 - 19 English cathedral city
 - 20 One-million link
 - 21 — de plume
 - 22 Fill up the tank
 - 24 Bushy do
 - 25 Tel Aviv native
 - 27 Out of the wind
 - 29 Censors
 - 32 Twisty fish
 - 33 Singer Reed
 - 34 Dealer's place
 - 35 "Far out, dude!"
 - 36 Form 1040 org.
 - 37 Twosome
 - 38 Nepali, e.g.



Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**
- 1 Big finale
 - 2 Meadow-lark's cousin
 - 3 "Tom Jones" author
 - 4 Tiny worker
 - 5 Less civil
 - 6 Yoga pose
 - 7 Animation unit
 - 8 "Bridget Jones's Diary" author
 - 9 Book worker
 - 10 Energetic person
 - 17 About to be a mother
 - 23 Try out
 - 24 Pub order
 - 26 Hard to catch
 - 27 Give fizz to
 - 28 Not owned
 - 30 Spring
 - 31 Steamship worker
 - 33 Cruise ship
 - 39 Simile center
 - 41 Long of "Soul Food"



11-3

AXYDIBAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-3 CRYPTOQUOTE

Z I M E C Y O A C Z U Q Z N C
C S Z E S U M K Q V M O V M V M Z E C
V A P C M U D C M E A Y T C U N
W Z U U M K Z O Y U K P Z O D Y E
S V M D A E C S S A P M L — Y U A G M E
Q M O K M U L V Y U P M C, C E.

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: CAN'T NOTHING MAKE YOUR LIFE WORK IF YOU AIN'T THE ARCHITECT.
— TERRY MCMILLAN

Retail trade group: holiday sales expected to slow to 3% to 4%, compared with 5.4% growth a year ago

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP
Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, expect shoppers will spend more this year than last year, but their pace will slow given all the economic uncertainty.

The group said Thursday that it expects holiday sales to be up 3% to 4% for November through December, compared with a 5.4% growth of a year ago. Sales for the two-month period will increase to between \$957.3 billion and \$966.6 billion. The pace is consistent with the average annual holiday increase of 3.6% from 2010 to pre-pandemic 2019. Americans ramped up spending during the pandemic, which accounted for some out-sized sales numbers. For the holiday 2021 season, sales for the two-month period



Shoppers carry shopping bags down Fifth Avenue, Monday, Dec. 19, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

surged 12.7%. The forecast, released Thursday, comes as shoppers keep spending, powered by sturdy hiring, low unemployment and healthy household finances. That's despite still higher prices though inflation has eased and higher interest rates that make getting a mortgage or borrowing on

credit cards more expensive. Not to mention shoppers' gloomy sentiment based on multiple surveys. But bad news keeps piling up including the threat of a government shutdown, the resumption of student loan repayments and new global tensions tied to the Oct. 7 surprise attack by Hamas in Israel. □

Disney to acquire the remainder of Hulu from Comcast for roughly \$8.6 billion



The logos for streaming services Netflix, Hulu, Disney Plus and Sling TV are pictured on a remote control on Aug. 13, 2020, in Portland, Ore.

Associated Press

By DAVID HAMILTON
AP Business Writer

Walt Disney Co. said it will acquire a 33% stake in Hulu from Comcast for approximately \$8.6 billion, a deal that will give Disney undisputed control of the streaming service. Disney has actually run Hulu since 2019, when Comcast ceded its authority to Disney and effectively became a silent partner.

Disney offered no comment beyond saying the acquisition will "further Disney's streaming objectives."

Hulu began in 2007 and quickly evolved into as a service backed by entertainment conglomerates who hoped to stave off the internet with an online platform for their own TV shows. Disney joined in 2009, planning to offer shows from ABC, ESPN and the Disney Channel. □

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24/7

Summer Science Program spent \$2 million last year serving 204 students. Then, they got a \$200M gift

By **THALIA BEATY**
Associated Press

It's the kind of problem nonprofit leaders dream about: What do you do when you get an unexpectedly large donation? Summer Science Program, a nonprofit with an annual budget of about \$2 million, sent about 200 high school juniors to six-week intensive research courses at universities this year. It has also puzzled over what to do with a surprise bequest of an estimated \$200 million about 100 times its annual budget.

Summer Science Program learned last year that one of its alumni, Franklin Antonio, a co-founder of chip-maker Qualcomm, had granted the organization 20% of his estate, said CEO Frank Steslow. "The estate is still being assessed and appraised and there is not a final valuation, but it is well north of \$960 million at this point," Steslow said. The board was not previously aware that Antonio, who died in May, 2022, at the age of 69, had included the organization in his will. Board members were equally surprised when they learned of the potential amount of the gift, he said. Members of the nonprofit's board had previously spoken with Antonio about making a major gift, in addition to the \$1.2 million he had already donated to the organization since 2000.

"Obviously, whatever was said to him and whatever impressions we left were positive," Steslow said. "But we don't know for certain what drove his thinking." Summer Science Program places students in groups of 36 to complete a research project in astrophysics, biochemistry or genomics, under the supervision of faculty advisors at universities like Indiana University, Bloomington, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, and University of Colorado Boulder. After the notification, their board began internal deliberations about



Participants in the Summer Science Program sit in a circle at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., on July 21, 2023.

Associated Press

how to recraft the organization around the bequest. They hired Steslow as CEO in March, brought in consultants to help them make a strategic plan, and in October, informed their alumni about the gift. The program intends to double the number of students enrolled next summer to more than 400 and increased its annual budget to over \$7 million. They won't change the size of the cohorts,

which Steslow said is a major part of the program's identity, but rather, the nonprofit is seeking to start partnerships at new universities as well as to expand into other STEM subjects. But they are also taking their time before making major decisions, like whether to establish a campus or physical location out of which they could run programs. Currently, the organization is fully remote. □



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Listen to the last new Beatles' song with John, Paul, George, Ringo and AI tech: 'Now and Then'

By **MARIA SHERMAN**
AP Music Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The final Beatles recording is here.

Titled "Now and Then," the almost impossible-to-believe track is four minutes and eight seconds of the first and only original Beatles recording of the 21st century. There's a countdown, then acoustic guitar strumming and piano bleed into the unmistakable vocal tone of John Lennon in the song's introduction: "I know it's true It's all because of you And if I make it through It's all because of you."

More than four decades since Lennon's murder and two since George Harrison's death, the very last Beatles song has been released as a double A-side single with "Love Me Do," the band's 1962 debut single.

"Now and Then" comes from the same batch of unreleased demos written by Lennon in the 1970s, which were given to his former bandmates by Yoko Ono. They used the tape to con-



The Beatles, from left, John Lennon, George Harrison, Ringo Starr and Paul McCartney arrive in Liverpool, England on July 10, 1964, for the premiere of their movie "A Hard Day's Night."

Associated Press

struct the songs "Free As a Bird" and "Real Love," released in the mid-1990s. But there were technical limitations to finishing "Now and Then."

On Wednesday, a short film titled "The Beatles Now

And Then The Last Beatles Song" was released, detailing the creation of the track. On the original tape, Lennon's voice was hidden; the piano was "hard to hear," as Paul McCartney describes it.

"And in those days, of course, we didn't have the technology to do the separation."

That changed in 2022, when the band now a duo was able to utilize the same technical restoration meth-

ods that separated the Beatles' voices from background sounds during the making of director Peter Jackson's 2021 documentary series, "The Beatles: Get Back." And so, they were able to isolate Lennon's voice from the original cassette and complete "Now and Then" using machine learning.

When the song was first announced in June, McCartney described artificial intelligence technology as "kind of scary but exciting," adding: "We will just have to see where that leads."

"To still be working on Beatles' music in 2023 wow," he said in "The Beatles Now And Then The Last Beatles Song." "We're actually messing around with state-of-the-art technology, which is something the Beatles would've been very interested in."

"The rumors were that we just made it up," Ringo Starr told The Associated Press of Lennon's contributions to the forthcoming track in September. "Like we would do that anyway." □

Usher uses first Super Bowl performance as 'cheat sheet' for 2024 show and urges diabetes screening

By **JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.**
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — While Usher gears up for his 2024 Super Bowl halftime performance, the singer will lean on his previous experience of hitting the NFL's biggest stage to help prepare for the 13-minute set.

The Grammy winner said he's using his appearance with Black Eyed Peas frontman will.i.am in 2011 as a "cheat sheet." He was recently chosen to headline the halftime festivities from Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas on Feb. 11 the same day he's expected to release his ninth studio album "Coming Home."

"I got a chance to see a bit of what it felt like," Usher told The Associated Press in a recent interview. In his first

Super Bowl performance, he descended from the stadium ceiling to perform "OMG" in Arlington, Texas. Usher's appearance lasted less than two minutes,

but the moment gave him plenty of insight into conducting a show with such limited time. His album "Confessions" ranks among one of the best-selling mu-



Usher performs at the 51st annual Songwriters Hall of Fame induction and awards gala at the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel on Thursday, June 16, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

sic projects of all time and launched No. 1 hits such as "Yeah!" with Ludacris and Lil Jon, "Burn" and "Confessions Part II." He's had other hits such as "U Got It Bad," "U Remind Me," "You Make Me Wanna" and "Love in the Club" lots of material to cover during one of the year's biggest cultural moments.

"Don't take the moments for granted because you only get 13 of them," said the singer, who is currently headlining his "Usher: My Way" sold-out residency in Las Vegas. "The hardest part is trying to figure out how to squeeze it all in when you actually have a large catalog, or a lot of records people celebrate and love."

Usher called his musical op-

portunities to perform part of "God's plan to entertain the world." As he prepares for the Super Bowl stage, the singer is promoting Type 1 diabetes screening through an ad campaign called The 1 Pledge movement, which launched Wednesday.

Usher's child was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age 6 in 2014.

"Had I known about this opportunity early, I would feel better," said Usher, who is a paid spokesperson of the healthcare company Sanofi on the ad campaign. "There's a range of things that you have to get acclimated to like identifying the doctors, the philosophy of how you want to live your life and manage your blood glucose levels." □

Frankfurt finally sees a return of NFL after years of supporting American football

By KEN MAGUIRE
AP Sports Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— Tears flowed among Frankfurt Galaxy fans when NFL Europa shut down after the 2007 season.

The NFL was losing tens of millions on its European adventure. For the Frankfurt faithful, it was heartbreak.

"We had a meeting with the owner in the stadium with some fans, and a lot of tears ran out of the eyes of the fans," said Joachim Wieczorek, one of the Galaxy's first supporters. "We knew we would miss it."

Frankfurt has always backed American football. The Galaxy was the only team that played in every season of the NFL's European league. It had strong fan support and won four "World Bowl" titles.

Now, the NFL is back in Frankfurt with two-regular season games starting Sunday when the Kansas City Chiefs face the Miami Dolphins at Deutsche Bank Park.

Pubs are preparing for an influx of traveling fans, the Chiefs have docked a yacht on the Main River, and league Commissioner Roger Goodell has been asked to sign the city's



Mike Pinkard of the Hamburg Sea Devils celebrates after the American Football World Bowl Final between Frankfurt Galaxy and Hamburg Sea Devils in the Commerzbank Arena in Frankfurt, central Germany, Saturday, June 23, 2007.

Associated Press

"Golden Book" an honor reserved for dignitaries.

Frankfurt hosts a second game next week when the New England Patriots play the Indianapolis Colts.

The NFL ditched the league approach in favor of staging regular-season games abroad, with London as the anchor. The league started holding games in the English capital in 2007 but only

came back to Germany last year when the Tampa Bay Buccaneers beat the Seattle Seahawks 21-16 at Allianz Arena in Munich.

Germany proved to be the backbone of NFL Europe in its final season in 2007, five of the six teams were German. Fans held "power parties" the German version of tailgating before games. The fan base included U.S.

military members stationed nearby. American troops had staged unofficial games in the 1970s.

The very first game of the NFL-backed World League of American Football in 1991 featured the London Monarchs against the Galaxy at Waldstadion, now called Deutsche Bank Park. "The stadium was full and nobody knew the rules,"

Wieczorek said. "It was a big party in the stadium."

A helicopter landed on the field and league President Mike Lynn emerged to deliver the game ball.

Dolphins special teams coordinator Danny Crossman remembers it well. He was a defensive back for the Monarchs.

"It was very different from what I was accustomed to," Crossman said Thursday before practice in Frankfurt. "It wasn't college football the pageantry of college football it wasn't the National Football League, it was a party. There were fireworks and it was all kinds of stuff going into pregame."

The atmosphere in the European stadiums was "fabulous," Crossman said.

"The passion that you see in rugby and football and everything else they brought it to American football and it was very fun," he said.

The league lasted just two seasons in its original form and later returned as NFL Europe.

Frankfurt also hosted the last game, losing in the 2007 World Bowl to the Hamburg Sea Devils 37-28 on a muddy field in front of 48,125 fans. □

Security prevents Rangers from celebrating in Chase Field pool after winning World Series



Texas Rangers manager Bruce Bochy celebrates with the trophy after winning Game 5 of the baseball World Series against the Arizona Diamondbacks Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — There was no pool party for the Texas Rangers after winning the World Series.

A raucous celebration after the franchise's first championship remained on dry land as about a dozen security officers guarded the pool behind the right-center wall at Chase Field.

"Are they going over there?" pitcher Nathan Eovaldi said during an interview with Fox. "No, I don't think they are."

The Rangers could've made a run for the water as they initially celebrated their 5-0 win over the

Arizona Diamondbacks in Game 5 on Wednesday night. Despite a clear path to the pool, where a few fans lingered on the deck, the players were more interested in hugging each other, family and friends on the field.


Once fans were cleared out and a few players headed down the steps to the clubhouse, security filled the area in front of the pool, spaced out every 20 to 30 feet.

The Diamondbacks had two splashy celebrations during their improbable run to this year's World Se-

ries after clinching a playoff spot and after beating the Los Angeles Dodgers in their NL Division Series.

Arizona players also took a festive dip after securing the 2011 NL West title at home, but were blocked by security following a 2017 playoff clinching. The 2001 World Series championship remained dry as well.

The Dodgers had the most controversial splash party after beating Arizona in 2013, ranking the Diamondbacks and their fans particularly after reports surfaced of a player peeing in the pool. □




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Oranjestad – Get ready to indulge in thrilling gaming experiences and a chance to strike it rich at LIV Casino, nestled within the luxurious Barceló Aruba resort. With a wide array of games and a captivating atmosphere, LIV Casino promises an unforgettable entertainment journey for visitors seeking excitement and good fortune.

LIV Casino boasts an impressive selection of 123 slot machines, each waiting to make someone a lucky winner. Among these, 114 are Dollar machines and 9 are Florin machines cater to various preferences and betting levels, offering a diverse gaming experience that suits every player's style.

The casino is not just about slots – for those who relish the thrill of traditional table games, LIV Casino delivers on every front.



Step up to the challenge at the Blackjack Table, where strategy meets chance, or take a spin at the Roulette Table for an electrifying game of luck. Additionally, the Three Card Poker Table offers a unique blend of strategy and excitement, adding a new dimension to the gaming floor.

Adding to the anticipation, every table at LIV Casino features its own

progressive jackpot, promising the potential for monumental winnings that could change a player's life in an instant.

The gaming action at LIV Casino comes alive from 11 AM to 3 AM, ensuring non-stop excitement throughout the day and into the night. For those looking to experience the thrill of table games, the tables are open from 4:30 PM until closing, inviting players to try their hand at a variety of games while enjoying the vibrant casino ambiance.

"Try your luck with us at LIV Casino at Barceló Aruba," encourages Marc Charley, Casino General Manager of LIV Casino. "We have crafted an environment where guests can immerse themselves in the thrill of gaming and experience the rush of winning big. Whether you're a seasoned

player or a beginner, our diverse selection of games caters to all preferences."

LIV Casino at Barceló Aruba stands as a hub of entertainment, where visitors can not only try their luck but also revel in the world-class amenities and hospitality that the Barceló brand is renowned for.

About LIV Casino, Barceló Aruba:

LIV Casino, located within the lavish Barceló Aruba resort, offers a premier gaming experience on the stunning island of Aruba. With a wide range of slot machines and table games, as well as the allure of progressive jackpots, LIV Casino provides endless entertainment for both novice and seasoned players. The casino operates from 11 AM to 3 AM, while table games are available from 4:30 PM till closing. □

Max Muncy and LA Dodgers agree to \$24 million, 2-year contract

By **BETH HARRIS**
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Third baseman Max Muncy and the Los Angeles Dodgers agreed Thursday to a \$24 million, two-year contract that prevented him from becoming a free agent.

Muncy gets a \$5 million signing bonus and salaries of \$7 million next year and \$12 million in 2025. The deal includes a \$10 million club option for 2026 with no buyout.

The 33-year-old had a \$13 million one-year deal this season and hit .212 with a career-high 105 RBIs to go with 36 home runs, tying

his career high.

Muncy joined Mookie Betts (107), J.D. Martinez (103) and Freddie Freeman (102) as the first quartet in Dodgers history with 100-plus RBIs in a season. Muncy, a two-time All-Star, has spent six seasons in Los Angeles.

He had a career year in 2021 with 36 homers and 124 hits, as well as 144 games played, 26 doubles, 64 extra-base hits and 262 total bases. He struggled after sustaining a major elbow injury near the end of that season. □



Los Angeles Dodgers' Max Muncy participates in batting practice before a simulated baseball game ahead of the NLDS in Los Angeles, Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023.

(AP Photo/Ashley Landis)



Colombia's government says ELN guerrillas kidnapped the father of Liverpool striker Luis Díaz

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia's government said Thursday that the guerrilla group National Liberation Army, known as ELN, was responsible for the weekend kidnapping of the father of Liverpool and Colombian national soccer team striker Luis Díaz. The peace delegation of the government, which is currently in negotiations

with ELN, said in a statement it was "officially aware" that the kidnapping had been "perpetrated by a unit that belongs to ELN."

"We demand that the ELN releases immediately Mr. Luis Manuel Díaz and we say as of now that they are entirely responsible to secure his life and integrity," said Otty Patiño, who leads the peace delegation.

Both parents of Liverpool's Díaz were kidnapped by armed men on motorcycles on Saturday at a gas station in the small town of Barrancas. The footballer's mother, Cilenis Marulanda, was rescued within hours by police who set up roadblocks around the town of 40,000 people, which is near Colombia's border with Venezuela. □